UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS ON THE RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION AT ITS SEVENTEENTH SESSION

(a) Conference of Ministers resolution 430(XVII) - African Household Survey Capability Programme

Immediately after the seventeenth session of the Conference of Ministers notes verbales were despatched to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York and embassies (where these exist) in Addis Ababa of the following countries which are represented on the UNDP Governing Council: Gabon, Guinea, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, the Niger, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia. It is the secretariat's understanding however that none of the African representatives on the Governing Council referred to the resolution on the African Household Survey Capability Programme at the Council meeting.

The Deputy Executive Secretary, however, wrote to UNDP to inform it about the contents of the resolution.

On 11 October 1982, the UNDP Assistant-Secretary General and Regional Director for Africa wrote to indicate that "Given the circumstance that 1983 is our most immediate problem, we wish to confirm our willingness firmly to commit, from the regional IPF, $200,000 for 1984 and to tentatively earmark the same amount for each of the years 1985 and 1986, on the condition that ECA takes full responsibility for the financing of the 1983 expenditures".

The Executive Secretary has issued directives for the financing of the 1983 expenditures and the regional component of AHSCP is expected to operate at least at the same level in 1983 as in 1982.

(b) Conference of Ministers resolution 432 (XVII) - Financing of the Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques

At its eighth meeting held from 27 to 30 April 1982 in Tripoli, the ECA Conference of Ministers adopted resolution 432 (XVII) urging member States, in accordance with the request sent by the Executive Secretary of ECA to pay the advance of $US10,000 from their 1982 contributions in order to cover the Institute's expenses which had until then been borne by the Government of the United Republic of Cameroon alone. The Government had decided to bring its financial contriubtion down to what other member States would pay from the time IFORD's regionalization took effect on 1 January 1982.

However, as a gesture of goodwill, the Government continued to bear all the Institute's local expenses for a further six months until June 1982. Having learned of IFORD's financial problems, the Institute's new Governing Council which met in Yaoundé on 28 and 29 June 1982 approved a provisional budget of CFAF 50 million for the second half of 1982 and CFAF 125 million for 1983.

As an interim measure, the Council decided that all member States would pay the same amount for 1982 and 1983, it being understood that IFORD would receive advances equivalent to $US10,000 from each member State out of its total contribution of CFAF 7 million for 1982 and 1983. The Government of the United Republic of Cameroon has taken the necessary steps to pay its contribution. The Government of Benin has secured from UNDP and amount of $US10,000 to be charged against its national indicative planning figure as its advance payment to IFORD.

In accordance with the above mentioned resolution and the Governing Council's decision, member States are urged to pay in their contributions for 1982 and 1983 as soon as possible in order to ensure the smooth running of the Institute.

(c) Conference of Ministers resolution 223 (XVII) - African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP)

Under operative paragraph 1 of this resolution the Conference of Ministers proposed to apply the indexation formulae agreed upon by State Members of the Commission to the 1980 gross national product of all independent African countries in 1980; and under operative paragraph 5, the Conference asked the Director of the Institute to intensify his efforts to raise funds from external sources whether in the form of voluntary contributions or technical assistance.

The action to implement the proposal for applying the indexation formulae based on 1980 GNP was delayed until the Institute received final GNP figures for African countries. In the light of these figures now received new contributions will be estimated and submitted to IDEP Governing Council for approval at its forthcoming meeting.

Several letters, cables and reminders were sent to Governments concerning payment of arrears of contributions but the results so far were not encouraging. Efforts in this regard are being intensified with country visits.

Initial efforts have been made to solicit extrabudgetary resources to finance the activities of the Institute. Italian and German foundations earmarked, as a result of these efforts, contributions totalling $US200,000 for 1983. It is hoped that the Institute will reach in the near future the minimum target of $US500,000 per year indicated in its five-year plan. Furthermore negotiations for technical assistance and aid programmes which include major components for financing training fellowships are being pursued. As soon as agreements are reached a five-year fellowship plan will be prepared and submitted to the Governing Council.

(d) Conference of Ministers resolution 436 (XVII) - Appropriate telecommunications for the development of Africa

In pursuance of this resolution ECA participated actively in the first meeting of the inter-agency co-ordinating committee on appropriate telecommunications for the development of Africa which took place at the OAU general secretariat in Addis Ababa from 25 to 27 August 1981. The meeting was convened by OAU in accordance with the recommendation of the Inter-governmental Experts Meeting on the appropriate modern telecommunications technology/integrated rural development study and resolution 436 (XVII).

This meeting, which was attended by OAU, ECA, URTNA, ITU, UNESCO and UAPT, agreed amongst other things to deal in detail with the harmonization and integration of all the study projects at the meeting of the inter-agency co-ordinating committee, and at a special meeting of the agencies assisted by their experts and consultants. During this meeting, the various terms of reference buiding the different studies could be compared and amended if necessary. Also preliminary consideration of the clauses relating to the implementation of the feasibility phase of the integrated study and mobilization of the funds required for the implementation of the integrated project would be discussed.

The committee agreed to hold its second meeting in Addis Ababa at a time to be agreed upon after due consultations with all members concerned.

It should be noted that the study on appropriate telecommunications for the development of Africa is in line with resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.81/21 on Decade project TEP-05 (rural telecommunications).

(e) Conference of Ministers resolution 437 (XVII) - International Convention on Multimodal Transport of Goods

The multimodal transport seminars are an UNCTAD project in which ECA and OAU are collaborating.

The project document was prepared by UNCTAD and sent to UNDP over a year ago for financing but so far UNDP has not funded it and efforts by UNCTAD to have the seminars funded from national IPF allocations have failed.

As follow-up action, a note under the signature of the Executive Secretary was sent to all African countries, appealing to them to authorize the funding of the seminars from their national IPF allocations.

Meanwhile, following consultations among UNCTAD, ECA and OAU, the project is being reformulated by UNCTAD to emphasize training at several levels and will be submitted again to UNDP for financing.

(f) Conference of Ministers Resolution 438 (XVII) - Pan-African Documentation and Information System

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Pan-African Documentation and Information System (PADIS) was established in January 1980. The first phase of its ten-year programme which stressed the creation and consolidation of the Central Co-ordination Office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, was successfully completed in December 1981. The primary objectives of the second phase of the PADIS programme are to:

(a) Provide assistance to States members of ECA to strengthen their information handling capabilities, including manpower, technologies and methodologies;

(b) Establish linkages between African centres participating in the PADIS network and between PADIS and international data bases;

(c) Expand the services to be provided by the Central Co-ordination Office and the subregional information and documentation systems in terms of both quantity and variety including bibliographic and factual data.

2. Considerable efforts have been made in the course of 1982 to realize the aforementioned objectives. Part II of the present report attempts to outline progress made in the creation and expansion of bibliographic reference files, the creation of statistical data bases, and the creation of data bases using existing capabilities in support of technical co-operation among African countries. Efforts made to create national and other institutional participating centres as well as to establish subregional documentation and information systems are discussed in part III. Activities carried out to establish linkages with external data bases are presented in part IV, which followed by a brief conclusion.

II. PROGRESS MADE IN EXPANDING THE SERVICES AND INFORMATION COVERAGE OF THE PADIS CENTRAL CO-ORDINATION OFFICE

3. The publication of printed indexes to information on social and economic development issues affecting Africa has progressed according to schedule. The quarterly issues planned for 1982 (vols. 2 to 5) have been published and widely distributed. Limited user services have been provided on requests from individuals and institutions both within and outside Africa in the form of micro-fiches and photocopies.

4. The creation of sectoral bibliographic files on agriculture, population, labour and employment, industry, etc., has been one of the primary concerns of the PADIS Central Co-ordination Office in its attempt to provide pertinent information to African researchers and technicians. PADIS attempts to fulfil this needs in two ways: firstly, by promoting the use of and providing easy access to the stock of information available at the documentation centres of United Nations specialized agencies (FAO, UNIDO, UNESCO, etc.) and other international data bases situated outside Africa; and, secondly, by assisting African regional and subregional institutions to set up specialized collections in their respective fields of competence (RESADOC, PIDSA, ARCT, etc.). Significant achievements have been made in the following areas.

- Agriculture. Although AGRIS of FAO has made several efforts to assist African countries to provide inputs into the global agricultural information system and to derive benefits from it, the results were extremely negligible. At the end of 1981, only 1.18 per cent of the 710,000 items related to the African region. The share of sub-Saharan Africa was a mere 0.25 per cent. The

utilization of this international data base by African countries in the solution of national and local problems is even more disappointing. Thus, a co-operative venture has been negotiated between FAO/AGRIS and PADIS which will make available at PADIS a subset of the AGRIS data base.

- Population. A consultative meeting was convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to discuss ways of establishing a region-wide population information network for Africa. The meeting recommended that the network should be established under the technical responsibility of the ECA Population Division and PADIS and with the participation of regional and subregional institutes for population studies (RIPS, IFORD, etc.). The implementation of this network will begin in the first quarter of 1983.

Science and technology. The establishment of a bibliographic information system on science and technology has been discussed with the African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT). PADIS has provided an expert to define the scope, standards and processing methods to be used by the System. PADIS has agreed to assist in the computerized processing of information already partially treated at the Centre.

- Mineral Resources. A preliminary data definition form has been prepared and submitted to the ECA Natural Resources Division. PADIS will participate in a training seminar to be sponsored in January 1983 by the Commission on Storage, Auto-Processing and Retrieval of Geological Data (COGEODATA) and the Eastern and Southern Africa Mineral Resources Development Centre. It is expected that a unified approach to the treatment, storage and retrieval of geological data in the countries of the subregion will be greatly enhanced. This development is particularly useful for future PADIS endeavours since the Mineral Resources Development Centre, as lead agency for substantive matters will foster the definition and accumulation of geological data, while PADIS can provide the expertise for computerized processing.

5. The implementation of a statistical data bank (PADIS-STAT) under the substantive supervision of the ECA Statistics Division and with the technical input of PADIS has approached completion. The PADIS-STAT data base which is conceived at three levels will provide statistical data to planners and decision-makers in the form of country profiles (level 1), integrated data of a time-series nature (level 2), and data structured to meet random access needs (level 3). This statistical data base will be supplemented with suitable programme packages for forecasting, modelling and simulations.

6. During the course of 1982, a start has been made with the establishment of a range of data bases on existing African capabilities in support of technical co-operation among African countries. It is foreseen that these data bases will contain information on available expertise, on-going research and development projects, institutions and training facilities at the service of TCDC, etc. The first issue of the Directory of African Experts has been prepared and computerized and will be released in March/April 1983. Formats and standards for the treatment of information on on-going research and development projects is under preparation. The information contained in these data bases is available to African member States on magnetic tape for retrospective searches.

III. ESTABLISHMENT OF PARTICIPATING CENTRES AND SUBREGIONAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION SYSTEMS

7. Action has been taken to familiarize African Governments with the objectives of PADIS. An overall indicative plan covering the period 1979-1983 has been prepared and distributed to ECA member States. Project proposals for the creation of national participating centres have been submitted to all member States. The Governments that have been contacted by CCO have expressed strong interest in participating in the PADIS programme at all levels. The following progress has been made.

Algeria. National legislation specifying the duties and powers of the national centre has been promulgated. The Government is considering the designation of one of the two existing centres as the PADIS participating centre.

Benin. Upon the request of the Ministry of Planning, a project document which will serve as the basis for the implementation of the "Centre National Automatisé pour la Documentation et Information (CENADI)" has been duly signed and the inauguration of the centre is scheduled for February 1983.

Egypt. The Government of Egypt, through its national Council for Scientific Research, has designated its National Documentation Centre as a PADIS participating centre.

Ethiopia. The project document outlining the implementation of the Ethiopian Documentation Centre (EDC) has been duly signed.

Guinea. PADIS proposals for the creation of a national participating centre have been accepted and a project outlining the implementation of the centre has been signed. A meeting of donors has been held to solicit funds for the establishment of the Centre.

Morocco. The Government has designated the "Centre National de Documentation" (CND), by far the most organized national system in Africa, as a PADIS participating centre. An assessment of the need to expand the national documentation network has been concluded. PADIS is assisting with the provision of experts and equipment.

Nigeria. PADIS proposals for the creation of the national centre have been accepted. The implementation of the centre will begin as soon as budgetary allocations, currently under discussion, are approved by the national legislative organ.

Rwanda. A request has been received from the Government of Rwanda soliciting the assistance of PADIS in the creation of the national documentation centre. An appraisal of this request is being made.

Sudan. The National Documentation Centre of the National Council for Research has been designated a participating centre. An assessment has been made of the level of assistance required and PADIS has agreed to provide expertise and equipment.

Tunisia. The Government has designated the national documentation centre for the agricultural sciences as a PADIS participating centre. Consultations are planned to finalize measures of assistance and the exchange of information.

8. Delegations from the Congo, the Ivory Coast and Zaire have been received at CCO to study ways of creating national centres. The reports that resulted from these consultations are being considered by the respective Governments. The Governments of

the United Republic of Cameroon, the Gambia, Kenya, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Mauritius, the Niger, Senegal, Somalia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe have been contacted and their reactions to PADIS proposals are being awaited. From the foregoing, it is clear that essential consultations have been concluded with the majority of African Governments.

9. Preparations are under way for convening five consultative meetings in the first quarter of 1983 within the framework of the MULPOC ministerial meetings. The meetings will bear proposals for the establishment of subregional information and documentation systems which will provide direct technical assistance to national centres, particularly in cases where the latter lack sufficient resources for the installation of computer and reprographic equipment. The subregional centres will also provide training to staff of national centres in documentation, systems analysis maintenance of computer and reprographic equipment, etc.

10. Considerable efforts have been exerted to establish institutional participating centres in collaboration with competent regional organizations. Preliminary discussions have been finalized and project proposals formulated for the African Regional Centre for Technology, the African Regional Centre for Training and Research in Administration for Development and the African Industrial Property Organization. The Pan-African Institute for Development, the Eastern and Southern Africa Management Institute, the African Regional Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing and the Institute for Development and Economic Planning are being approached in an effort to enhance the participation of regional and subregional institutions which are both primary generators and users of information. Assistance is being provided to the African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCST) and RESADOC (Réseau sahelien pour la documentation) of the Sahelian Institute whereby the documentation centres of the respective institutions supply completed worksheets for computerization and preparation of printed indexes.

IV. LINKAGES WITH DATA BASES SITUATED OUTSIDE THE AFRICAN REGION

11. Since its inception, the PADIS programme had foreseen the eventual interlinkage of participating centres using modern telecommunication data transmission technology. It was also envisaged that access to international data bases situated outside Africa will be achieved using satellite links. To this end, a technical report defining fundamental specifications for the PADIS data transmission system utilising a telecommunication satellite has been prepared. Data transmission tests at 300 bits per second on switched public circuits between Addis Ababa and Frascatti and between Khartoum and Frascatti were organized by PADIS in collaboration with ESA. The tests were only partly successful because of interruptions caused by routine interference during transmission. It is, however, certain that a reserved point-to-point telephone circuit will easily permit the required data transmission at 9,600 bits per second.

12. Further study is being carried out to co-ordinate the PADIS tele-transmission network with the planned Development Information Network/Information Referral System being executed by UNDP. If successful, this co-ordination will allow UNDP to use PADIS NET within the African region and for PADIS to use the UNDP/DIN network for its linkages with other developing regions.

13. In accordance with the decisions of the eighth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers, the satellite communication requirements for data transmission within Africa and between African and the rest of the world have been given due consideration by the Inter-agency Co-ordinating Committee on Satellite Communications.

V. CONCLUSION

14. The performance of the project during 1982 has been more than satisfactory. The first two national centres, in Benin and the Sudan will be created in the first quarter of 1983. With the establishment of the four subregional information and documentation systems, it is believed the creation of national centres will accelerate since the burden of committing considerable resources for the purchase of equipment will lessen.

15. Several new dimensions have been added to the PADIS programme with the execution of the Information Referral System for TCDC in Africa and with the work that has been started to open new data bases on food and agriculture (in collaboration with FAO), on population (in collaboration with the ECA Population Division) and, science and technology (in collaboration with ARCT).

(e) Conference of Ministers resolution 440 (XVII) - External indebtedness of African countries

In this resolution, the Conference of Ministers expressed concern at the increasing trends towards more constrained and restrictive borrowing terms and conditions available to the African countries which caused severe balance-of-payments problems and increased the burden of debt servicing. The secretariat, in collaboration with OAU and ADB, was requested to organize an inter-governmental meeting to examine the problems associated with the external indebtedness of African countries. In preparation for this meeting, a study is being prepared jointly by the three secretariats and is expected to be completed by the end of March 1983. The findings of this study would be submitted for consideration at the ministerial meeting on African external indebtedness scheduled to be held in December 1983.

(h) Conference of Ministers resolution 441 (XVII) - Development of Inter-African Trade

The Conference of Ministers continued to give high priority to the development of intra-African trade as a means of fulfilling the goals of the Lagos Plan of Action. Pursuant to this resolution therefore, the Executive Secretary of ECA continued his efforts towards the creation of the Preferential Trade Area (PTA) for Eastern and Southern African States. To date 13 countries have signed the Treaty and of these nine have ratified it thereby making it formally operative. In addition, the secretariat of the PTA started functioning as of 1 January 1983 with the appointment of its Secretary-General and of some of the key staff members. The secretariat's headquarters is located in Lusaka, Zambia.

The resolution also urged all African Chambers of Commerce to attend the meeting preparatory to the establishment of the Federation of African Chambers of Commerce. This meeting was held in Harare, Zimbabwe, in May 1982 and made specific recommendations towards the establishment of this Federation. A meeting formally launching the Federation of African Chambers of Commerce is planned to be held in Morocco in May 1983.

The resolution furthermore urgently appealed to UNDP to continue to provide financial assistance to the project on the development of intra-African trade and monetary and financial co-operation during the 1982-1986 programming cycle. This was based on the review of the evaluation team, composed of representatives of UNDP, UNCTAD and ECA, which recommended the continuation of this project. Pursuant to this resolution, the Executive Secretary requested UNDP headquarters to continue its financing of this project. However, despite this positive recommendation, UNDP decided to discontinue its financial support to this project and accordingly, the project terminated on 31 December 1982. Efforts are being made to continue certain aspects of this project through other sources of funding but it is unlikely that the level of activities envisaged would be attained.

(i) Conference of Ministers Resolution 444 (XVII) - Sub-regional Machinery for the Review and Co-ordination of Programmes and Policies in Human Resources

I. EXPECTED ACTIONS

Resolution 444 (XVII) contains five main elements for action:

(a) The adoption, as an interim measure, of the terms of reference of the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Human Resources Planning, Development and Utilization subject to a review in January 1984 of the operational relationship of the machinery vis-à-vis with other relevant subsectoral machineries;

(b) The acceptance of five project proposals with respect to the development of African capabilities in human resources planning, development and utilization; as well as in financial management and administrative improvement;

(c) A call to African Governments to accord high priority to planned development by providing the necessary financial, moral and material support for the effective development and utilization of human resources for national development;

(d) An appeal for the consolidation and co-ordination of various efforts made by multilateral, bilateral and inter-governmental technical co-operation organizations and specialized agencies in the planning, development and utilization of African human resources;

(e) A request to the Executive Secretary of ECA to convene the second Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Human Resources Planning, Development and Utilization in January 1984 and to hold full consultations so as to promote the effective co-ordination of human resources planning, development and utilization activities within the region.

In view of these activity elements, concerted actions were expected to be taken by member Governments, ECA and other specialized bodies towards:

(a) The development of national and regional institutional machinery and the related technical capabilities;

(b) The holding of joint consultative meetings between ECA and other multilateral and bilateral organizations and agencies;

(c) The organization and servicing of the second Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Human Resources Planning, Development and Utilization; and

(d) Continued consultations at national level to increase awareness in all government ministries concerned with human resources planning, development and utilization at the national level as a basis for developing action plans for the development of machineries called for in (a) above.

II. FOLLOW-UP ACTION TAKEN

A. Institutional machinery and related technical capability development centre

1. At the national level

Activities aimed at developing and/or strengthening national institutional machinery and technical capabilities in response to resolution 444 (XVII) centred on consultative follow-up field missions, desk studies for the development of proposals on the administrative, policy and staffing requirements and national consultative workshops.

(a) Consultative field missions

A series of consultative missions were undertaken by ECA, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat to the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Kenya and Uganda. The primary objectives of these missions were:

(i) To assess measures instituted by the respective Governments for the development of national institutional machinery and capabilities in implementation of resolution 444 (XVII) relative to effective manpower planning and policy formulation; and

(ii) To review progress on the development of institutional capabilities for training for development and career guidance and planning. The results of these missions formed the basis for the development of the guideline proposals and the design of the strategy for the consultative workshops on the subject and the provision of advisory services to member Governments. Another consultative mission was undertaken to Liberia and Sierra Leone on the planning and organization of national workshops in career guidance.

(b) Field and desk studies

Country studies were undertaken in employment planning, creation and labour productivity enhancement; and resource utilization in African institutions of higher learning.

The first study area covered eight countries (Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Rwanda, Zaire, Benin, the United Republic of Cameroon and the Ivory Coast) and plans are under way for similar studies for other countries interested in participating in the study. For the second area of study, ECA commissioned four country studies which were undertaken by consultants in Botswana, Zambia, Kenya and Ethiopia.

A consistent observation which flows from these studies is that the need to establish and staff national institutional machinery for co-ordinating and reviewing human resources activities in Africa has become crucial for the enhancement of national development. As a step to assist member States to meet this need, ECA has developed, for member States' consideration, draft guidelines for the development of appropriate policy, machinery, structures, related functions and staffing requirements for sustained formulation and implementation of human resources policies and programmes within the overall national planning framework. These guidelines, which are to be finalized in consultation with member Governments at the national consultative workshops, are in the following four parts:

(i) Guidelines for the preparation of global manpower plicies;

(ii) Guidelines for institutional machinery for human resources planning and policy development;

(iii) Policy aspects and institutional machinery for guidance and co-ordination of training and career development functions;

(iv) Policy aspects and institutional machinery for guidance and co-ordination of employment and labour productivity enhancement functions.

(c) National workshops

As a sequel to the consultative mission discussed above, three types of national workshops were held in a number of countries in an effort to develop the technical capability of staff who would man the machineries called for in resolution 444 (XVII). These are as follows:

i. Trainers' Workshop. Regional trainers' workshops, focusing on training methodology, techniques and training programme design and management were held in Kenya and Botswana. These workshops served as a forum for (i) definitive training policies; (ii) function and role of training personnel; (iii) organizational machineries and strategies for effective co-ordination of the training function.

ii. Career development and planning workshops. In direct response to the findings of the field studies, national workshops on career development, guidance and planning were held in collaboration with the Governments of Liberia, Malawi and Botswana in addition to others held earlier. These workshops focused on the provision of technical skills, approaches to the development of appropriate staff capability towards the establishment of national career counselling and guidance institutional machinery in member States.

iii. Orientation workshops on institutional capability development. Following the mission reports, national orientation workshops were proposed to member States for their consideration and action. The workshops which (a) reviewed the Lagos Plan of Action and determined its manpower implications at the national level; (b) reviewed the development of national manpower planning machineries and policies; (c) discussed the effectiveness, staff requirements, status and co-ordination of agencies concerned with human resources programmes; (d) assessed the state of manpower and employment planning data and information flow systems; and (e) developed guideline proposals for creating appropriate institutional machineries for co-ordinated manpower planning, development and utilization, have been held in Lesotho and are programmed for Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Botswana and Swaziland.

These workshops constitute the first stage of a three-tier activity. The second stage, which is to follow the development of some programme support and commitment for manpower planning, training and employment planning skills, will concentrate on the development of related skills, while the third stage is to deal with the training of high-level manpower planners, trainers and employment planning personnel.

The first stage of the workshop was concluded in Lesotho in November 1982 and a ministerial sectoral task force was constituted to facilitate implementation of the second stage of the programme. In 1982 organizational work was completed for the workshops in Kenya, Uganda and Zambia to be conducted in March 1983. Planning is going on for workshops to be undertaken in the Central African Republic (May 1983), Zaire (June 1983), Botswana (March 1983), Swaziland (June 1983), the Gambia (July 1983), and the Ivory Coast and Guinea (October/November 1983).

2. At the regional level

In connection with the development of the regional institutional capability for human resources planning and programming, a meeting of the Follow-up Ministerial Committee of Nine took place late in February 1983 in Addis Ababa. The Committee reviewed, along with progress reports on the various programmes, the terms of reference and the operational relationship of the regional institutional machinery for the review and co-ordination of programmes and policies in human resources with other regional institutions involved in the planning, development and utilization of African human resources. The report of the Committee will be submitted, for action, to the second Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Human Resources Planning, Development and Utilization scheduled to take place in Cairo, in January 1984.

However, prior to the Follow-up Committee Meeting, several subregional activities were undertaken as a follow-up to the provisions of resolution 441 (XVII). These include the Conference of Vice-Chancellors, Presidents and Rectors of Institutions of Higher Learning in Africa, the public administration and management training workshop held in the Ivory Coast for French-speaking member States and the joint ECA/OAU Conference on the Role of the Public Sector in the Implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action.

B. Collaboration and co-ordination of multilateral and bilateral efforts and programmes

Initial steps have been taken by ECA to convene a joint consultative meeting between the secretariat and other sectoral international and bilateral agencies concerned with human resources planning, development and utilization, while, in anticipation of the meeting, several actions aimed at ensuring effective co-ordination and collaboration of efforts fo maximum results were undertaken in 1982. Foremost among them are:

(a) The preparation of the joint ECA/OAU technical document on curriculum content and orientation of education in Africa which was presented as a collaborative effort to the Conference of Ministers of Education and Those Responsible for Economic Planning in Africa held in Zimbabwe in June/July 1982;

(b) The organization and conduct of a joint seminar by ECA and the German Foundation for International Development on fiscal incentives for promoting domestic and foreign investments in African countries;

(c) The development of a joint project proposal by ECA and the International Committee for Migration (ICM) on the return of qualified African personnel operating in developed countries which is to be funded by EEC and executed jointly by ECA and ICM;

(d) The planning and programming of a joint technical preparatory meeting scheduled for August 1983 at which technical papers relating to the required inputs into the development of quality human resources for the year 2000 will be discussed by professionals from WHO, ILO, OAU, AATA, UNESCO, FAO, UNFP, UNICEF, UNIDO and ECA with a view to providing some basic policy guidelines for instituting a system of co-operation for the development and utilization of African human resources.

C. Second Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Human Resources Planning, Development and Utilization

Preparations have begun in respect of convening the second Conference of Ministers Responsible for Human Resources Planning, Development and Utilization. The venue of the Conference has now been confirmed as Cairo, Egypt, and it is scheduled to take place in January 1984. Follow-up discussions with the Egyptian Government on administrative matters are expected to take place soon. Preparatory arrangements including the programming of the joint technical preparatory meeting and the meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee of Nine have been made. Letters of invitations are expected to be sent to member States following the discussions with the host Government.

(k) Conference of Ministers resolutions 456 (XVII), 457 (XVII) and 458 (XVII) - least developed countries

Conference of Ministers resolution 456 (XVII) - Implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries

In paragraph 5, it was recommended that "the Commission should be closely associated with the lead agencies in the substantive preparations and organization of aid consultative groups (review meetings, round tables) that each least developed country is called upon to convene". In that respect, the ECA secretariat has conveyed the recommendations to UNDP and the World Bank and has asked to be involved in the preparation of review meetings. UNDP informed the secretariat that the participation of any agency in the preparation of the review meetings is subject to the request of the countries concerned and not to the decision of the lead agencies. So far, the Comoros, Benin and Guinea have requested the ECA secretariat to participate in the preparation of documents for their round table. To that effect, staff of the Socio-Economic Research and Planning Division were assigned to those countries in February 1982, September 1982 and January 1983 respectively. In addition, the secretariat was designated by the Government of Mali as rapporteur of its review meeting which was held at Bamako from 11 to 16 December 1982. The secretariat also participated in the review meetings of Cape Verde (May 1982) and Rwanda (December 1982).

In paragraph 8, the conference also "appeals to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to provide resources over and above those earmarked for Governments to enable the Executive Secretary to carry out his responsibilities in respect of the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Substantial New Programme of Action in the African region".
The attention of UNDP was drawn to the paragraph in question and a project amounting to $2.4 million was submitted to UNDP to be included in the 1982-1986 programming cycle. The project covers in-depth studies to be undertaken by the ECA secretariat on behalf of African Least Developed Countries as well as assistance to be provided to them for the preparation and follow-up of their review meetings. Because of the financial contraints facing UNDP, the project was not included in the 1982-1986 programming cycle. An effort is being made to seek some financial assistance from UNDP through the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries.

Conference of Ministers resolution 457 (XVII) - Implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action within the framework of national and collective self-reliance

In paragraph 7, the conference "calls upon the Executive Secretary to undertake, upon request by Governments, studies which will assist African least developed countries in formulating plans and programmes on the basis of appropriate planning methodologies". Also, paragraph 8 "invites the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and relevant United Nations agencies, to assist island and continental African States in identifying ways of exploiting the resources of adjacent seas".

Pursuant to paragraph 7, the secretariat has prepared studies for the Comoros, Benin and Guinea as a contribution to their review meetings mentioned in (i) above as well as to the preparation of their respective development plans. Also, on the request of all African Least Developed countries, a study was prepared by the

secretariat on measures for the effective mobilization of domestic resources in African Least Developed Countries. The study will be presented to the third meeting of the Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries. Other studies requested by African Least Developed Countries as a group on food strategy and on capacity utilization are planned to be completed in 1984

With regard to paragraph 8, the secretariat, in the framework of its regional advisory activities, is continuously providing assistance to island countries.

Conference of Ministers resolution 458 (XVII) - Financing of programme for the Least Developed Countries

The resolution did not contain any specific request addressed to the secretariat. However, the resolution was conveyed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Administrator of UNDP who were requested in paragraph 3 to bring the resolution to the attention of all States members of the United Nations and to take all the measures necessary for its implementation.